

B.A.R.G. NEWS

Official Newsletter of the Ballarat Amateur Radio Group. Inc. #6953T

ABN 44 247 200 143

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 9 SEPTEMBER 2004

PRESIDENT: David Tilson VK3UR SECRETARY: John Kennedy VK3AIG TREASURER: Bob Terrill VK3BNC
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NEXT MEETING – **FRIDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2004**
At 7.30 pm

EDITORS COMMENT

A new year has started with a new Committee with some old members remaining, so our congratulations go to David VK3UR as president and Ian VK3IDL as vice president. These are the hard positions to fill in the Club and with their leadership the club can go on to bigger and better things.

As you will see as you read on, there will be longer range plans and the requirement that you will be involved in the various projects and that you step forward when asked.

We look forward to a busy and successful year.

Editor

FROM THE PRESIDENT

From the President's Shack:

On behalf of the incoming Committee, for 2004 – 2005, thank you for your support and confidence in appointing us for the next 12 months. Thanks also to Gordon, **VK3FGC**, for his Presidency over the last few years and agreeing to stay on as 1 of our 6 Member's Representatives during the coming year.

During the last 12 months we, as a club, actively participated in the review of the Amateur Service and we have already seen some of the resultant changes, including removal of the mandatory Morse Code requirement for HF operation. In the coming 12 months we will see the introduction of a new class of entry level licence. A focus of the Committee will be to ensure that BARG is poised to maximise our advantage in recruiting, developing and supporting the newcomers to our hobby, as well as maintaining a healthy level of activity to retain them as members.

It is refreshing to see that we have already had a number of members offering suggestions and assistance with different tasks and projects. These have been noted and will be discussed at Committee and with our members over the coming months.

Vice-President Ian, **VK3IDL**, has developed a club calendar which lists all of the known meetings and events over the next 12 months and is included this newsletter. A few of the meeting nights have been changed due to clashes with public holidays, so please note the new dates. The aim is to keep you, our members, up to date by publishing regular updates in our monthly newsletter.

Yours in amateur radio,

David Tilson, VK3UR BARG President.

DATES

Club meetings the last Friday each month starting at 7.30 pm

COMMITTEE please note that meetings (3rd Wednesday in the month) will also start at 7.30.

Construction Nights. Construction nights are held on the second Monday each month at 7.30 .

WICEN Net : Tuesday nights at 9.00 pm on 3.60 MHz + QRM etc. (Some times below 3.60) and after the net closes, a short check in on 40M at an agreed freq.

Eureka Special Event	27 Nov to 5 Dec 2004
Ballarat Hamvention	Sunday 7 Nov 2004

EUREKA SPECIAL EVENT

Eureka 150 Celebrations:

Plans are well underway for BARG's involvement in the Eureka 150 celebrations. The Australian Communications Authority (ACA) has issued the callsign **VI3BML** to the club for use during late November and December. Ian, **VK3IDL**, is preparing a roster, with Ernie, **VK3DET**, that will be available at the September General Meeting and regularly distributed via e-mail and the club's web site. To coincide with the Eureka celebrations we will operate the special event station from November 27th until the 5th of December. The Committee would really like to see members operating around the clock from the clubrooms and using club equipment on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of December and we will be providing food and drink at the clubrooms during this period. We would also like to see the special event station active on as many modes as possible, eg: SSTV, RTTY, Packet, CW, Voice, etc. If you would like to operate VI3BML, but can't make it to a club meeting, contact Ian on 5331-1480 (AH). Many of you would have seen the sample QSL cards that Norm, **VK3LBA**, produced and were discussed at the August General Meeting. Thanks for your efforts Norm, the samples looked great and QSL cards will be printed at the conclusion of the event once numbers are known. After much deliberation the Committee selected the following design.

Val D'angri, Norm's wife, is preparing a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet that will assist in providing facts and information about Eureka for our rostered operators. Val has kindly agreed to give a presentation on Eureka at our November General Meeting.

This information will be of great value to help us with this event and we must make a special effort because of the faith (financially) that the City of Ballarat has put in us. I have tentatively ordered 1000 QSL cards for the event. Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

To all members of the BARG. How about jotting down a few words about a project you may have built up at some time and send it into the magazine. If you can draw up a circuit as well you may find that your little idea is what another club member was perhaps thinking of doing and you will have precipitated them into action. When I first joined the club [while still living in Melbourne] I looked forward to getting the posted magazine and look up at the circuits, and some "old time" methods etc from members. I certainly made use of some of the circuits and enjoyed reading the writings that made up the bulk of the magazine. How about getting pen to paper and tell others about the latest gimic that you have put together, or what you would like to do and maybe that will galvanize someone else to suggest a different way to do the same thing.

We have this magazine so that we can maintain contact with each other, so lets use it to its potential. Any ideas that are put up could also be developed as club projects for our technical construction nights. Maybe you have a good idea but haven't yet developed it fully. Its possible that other members can advance it for you if shared. I would love to see more people send something to the editor so that there is a bag with unpublished ideas just waiting to go! What about it? Perhaps the committee could offer some inducement for the best published article in a particular period? What about it.

Craig Cook
Cape Clear
VK3CMC

Editors Note; If submitting items by e-mail; please do it as an attachment as I have trouble extracting the article from the e-mail its- self.

MINUTES OF CLUB MEETING & AGM

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc. August Meeting

Minutes of General Meeting August 27 2004

Meeting opened by President David vk3ur @ 1815 hrs.

*Apologies. Craig vk3cmc. Ian vk3axh. Harry vk3kgl. Bob vk3bnc. Kathy vk3hrz.
Bill vk3pal. Jeff vk3pap. Robert vk3nbv. Doug vk3vba. Ted Morley.*

Minutes as circulated. Moved vk3ur/vk3idl Carried.

Correspondence. Outwards To W.I.A. for clarification on the Vic component.

*Inwards. W.I.A. Powerline interference. Bruce Kendal re lack of newsletter.
C.G.F.R.C. re membership to B.A.R.G. T.T.S. Systems for date of Ham Convention.*

President David welcomed new member Charlie Vella.

Financial Statement read and adopted .Accounts passed for payment. Moved vk3fgc/mna. Carried.

Reports. Clem vk3vbi reported Club net going well and stressed that Club activities need to be broadcast as a segment John vk3cfh to assist Clem with this segment.

President David welcomed overseas visitors, Chris N9UBD. Duncan and David.

Western Zone. Ian vk3cis. Usual quality.

Exams. Charlie vk3dcs reported one exam two weeks ago. Cost of posting etc to be looked into at next Committee Meeting.

Publicity. Gordon vk3fgc reported that no action has taken place re roofing, City Council. To follow up.

W.I.C.E.N. Gordon vk3fgc reported that an exercise will be held in Ballarat at a future date.

Construction Night. Stewart vk3ash reported that the interface project going well and a very enjoyable night . Lighting to be looked at Michael Lomas to attend.

Clem vk3bvi raised the question regarding a day time for construction. Ernie vk3det raised the point of all the radio gear available and no usage. Committee to discuss.

Newsletter .Gordon vk3fgc always looking for items.

General Business. Eureka special events discussed and Ian vk3idl to draw up roster for station manning. To assist Ian vk3det, vk3aig. Vk3bvi. Vk3cfh. Vk3ur. Vk3ash. Vk3dcs. Vk3tjw. Vk3mna. With power to add.

President David spoke on some suggestion for the Club activities. Guest Speakers. Tour of Mars Factory. Wind farms. Social Car Rally. Day Groups. Wine Tour. Visit to Observatory. Etc. etc. Look at future recruitment. Hamvention Ernie vk3det stressed advertising for the coming event is the key to success. Next dinner night Ballarat Leagues Club 17 Sept. Meeting closed 2130 hrs.

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc A.G.M. 2004 Aug 27

Minutes of Annual General Meeting August 27. 2004.

Apologies. Craig vk3cmc, Ian vk3axh, Harry vk3kgl, Bob vk3bnc, Kathy vk3hrz, Bill vk3pal, Jeff vk3pap, Robert vk3nbv, Doug vk3vba, Ted Morley.

Minutes of A.G.M. August 2003 read and confirmed Moved vk3bvi/ vk3dcs. Carried,

Annual Reports read and confirmed Moved vk3fgc / vk3ur Carried.

President Gordon thanked all members for their support, then declared all positions vacant and withdrew from the chair.

John vk3cfh then presided and conducted the election of new Office Bearers as the the number of nominations did not exceed vacancies no ballot was required.

The following nominations were received.

President	David vk3ur
Vice President	Ian vk3idl,
Secretary	John vk3aig
Treasurer,	Bob vk3bnc,
Committee,	Bob vk3nbv, Doug vk3vba, Craig vk3cmc, Gordon vk3fgc, John vk3cfh,
	Harry vk3kgl,

All new nominations declared valid and new President David vk3ur took the chair and filled the following positions.

Net Coordinator, Clem vk3bvi with John vk3cfh as rostered backup,	
Amenities Coordinator To be filled,	Examinations Officer Charlie vk3dcs.
Education Officer Craig vk3cmc.	Technical Officer Ian v3axh.
Hamvention Officer Ian vk3axh,	Property Officer Jeff vk3pap,
Q.S.L. Manager Michael Lomas,	Publicity Officer To Be Filled.
News Letter Officer Gordon vk3fgc.	Awards Officer To Be Filled,

Moved Gordon vk3fgc/ Ian vk3idl that Jeff vk3pap be elected Hon Auditor for coming year. Carried,

Moved Gordon vk3fgc / Clem vk3bvi that Robert Dobson be elected as Hon Solicitor to B.A.R.G. Club. Carried.

Being no further business the A.G.M. closed at 2100 hrs and President David thanked all members

N.B. Keep these minutes for next AGM if you want to discuss any thing.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Bill Wells VK3PAL** on being awarded a **Paul Harris** Fellowship by Rotary International for his service to the Rotary Club of Ararat. Bill is also the assistant Governor for this Rotary District Well done Bill!!

September General Meeting:

Gwen, **VK3DYL**, will be our guest speaker at our General Meeting on 24th September. She is a very keen DXer and has confirmed contacts with all 335 countries. Gwen will give a presentation on 5 YL DXpeditions that she has been actively involved with over the last 4 years, including Norfolk Island, Lord Howe Island, the Cook Islands, Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Island. Gwen will be embarking on a trip to South Korea, in October, where she has been asked to present at the 7th International YL Meet.

HAMVENTION BALLARAT 2004

Ian, **VK3AXH**, reports that preparations for the 2004 Hamvention are progressing well. The date and venue have been confirmed for Sunday, 7th November at the Ballarat Showgrounds Wool Pavilion. Entry fee has been set at \$6 per person and 6' trestles are available for \$15 (including 1 admission). The Hamvention coincides with Trash and Treasure and the annual Ballarat Springfest (held around Lake Wendouree) which allows many partners and families to browse around the Springfest stalls while the Hamvention attendees buy up all the bargains. Invitations have been sent to equipment suppliers and a leaflet will appear in the October issue of Amateur Radio magazine. The Ballarat Hamvention is a major event on the BARG calendar and takes a lot of assistance for it to be successful. Ian is looking for volunteers to assist with preparations, prior to and on the day. If you can assist, please contact Ian on 5341-3012 (AH).

Home Brew Competition:

Last year the club received an anonymous donation to be used as a prize for a home brew competition, to be held in conjunction with the Hamvention. Members and visitors are welcome to enter the competition. Conditions of entry will be published shortly on www.barg.org.au and in the October BARG Newsletter.

Entries for this competition are expected to have their exhibits at the Show Grounds by 0930 hrs on the Sunday or to contact the Club if they will not be at the function.

New Member:

Welcome to **Charlie Vella**, from Wendouree, who joined us as a new member at our August General Meeting. Charlie doesn't have a callsign yet, but is working on it... Good luck with the studies Charlie and we hope you have many years of happy membership with BARG.

Quotable Quote

"The nice thing about meditation is that it makes doing nothing quite respectable" - Paul Dean

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ballaarat Observatory Visit:

Ian, **VK3IDL**, has arranged a club visit to the Ballaarat Observatory, for a presentation on astronomy and a viewing of the telescopes, following our General Meeting on 29th October. We will have a regular club

meeting (commencing at 7:30PM at the BARG clubrooms) followed by an early supper and head off as a group to the Observatory, located near Sovereign Hill, at 9:15PM. Visitors are welcome to join us for our regular club meeting and then follow on for the Observatory tour.

Contest Co-ordinator:

Whilst discussing the outstanding positions at the Committee Meeting, we talked about creating an additional appointment, being a Contest Co-ordinator. This new role would be responsible for co-ordinating BARG's involvement in contests such as the John Moyle Memorial Field Day and the Remembrance Day contest. Following discussion it was agreed that we would see if Ernie, **VK3DET**, was prepared to take on this role, which he has subsequently accepted. Ernie has a lot of experience and interest in setting up portable field day stations and participating in contests. Ernie is now preparing a Contest Plan that we will talk about at forthcoming meetings. Thanks Ernie for taking on this new role.

BARG Voice Announcements via VK3RWA:

At a recent General Meeting Stephen, **VK3HEG**, administrator of our IRLP system, was asked if we could broadcast club announcements through the node's IRLP computer to VK3RWA. Stephen has now configured the system so that digitally recorded voice announcements, such as Hamvention news, forthcoming club meetings, etc are announced several times a day at pre-defined times to listeners of the repeater. Thanks Stephen for your assistance in putting this new initiative in place.

BARG E-mail List:

If you have an e-mail address, but the club doesn't know about it, you could be missing out on some useful information. We receive newsletters from several other amateur radio clubs that we distribute to BARG members via e-mail, as well as sending out reminders of meetings, and other items of interest. If you have items for sale, have a question, or need a hand finding information we are happy to pass the information or request to your fellow members. By receiving your BARG newsletter electronically it saves the club \$6 per year, in postage alone, which we can then use to fund other projects and activities. Make sure you don't miss out by sending your e-mail details to vk3bml@barg.org.au today.

Construction Group:

We had a successful construction night this month where most people finished their computer to radio interfaces and were able to test them. We bought enough bits and have several spare kits available if you'd like to build one. Contact Ian, **VK3AXH**, if you are interested. We are now looking at what our next project will be. Craig, **VK3CMC**, and Ian, **VK3AXH**, talked about a simple 2 tone audio signal generator project that was in the latest issue of Amateur Radio magazine. This would allow SSB operators to obtain accurate power measurements and the guys are now researching the production of printed circuit boards.

Quotable Quote

"If you really want the last word in an argument, try saying, "I guess you're right""

CLUB DIRECTORY

2004 Club Committee:

At the 2004 Annual General Meeting the following Office Bearers were elected and positions appointed for the coming 12 months.

Office Bearers:

Position:	Name:	Callsign:	Telephone (AH):
President	David Tilson	VK3UR	5334-1888
Vice President	Ian Lloyd	VK3IDL	5331-1480
Secretary	John Kennedy	VK3AIG	5332-4454
Treasurer	Bob Terrill	VK3BNC	5339-5317
Member's Representative	Craig Cook	VK3CMC	5342-2448
Member's Representative	Gordon Cornell	VK3FGC	5339-2427
Member's Representative	John Hazledine	VK3CFH	5339-1971
Member's Representative	Harry Hekkema	VK3KGL	5335-7563
Member's Representative	Bob Pitcher	VK3NBV	5336-0998
Member's Representative	Doug Raper	VK3VBA	5332-3565

Appointed Positions:

Position:	Name:	Callsign:	Telephone (AH):
Amenities Co-ordinator	Doug Raper	VK3VBA	5332-3565
Awards Officer	TBA		
Education Officer	Craig Cook	VK3CMC	5342-2448
Examinations Co-ordinator	Charlie Stewart	VK3DCS	5331-7425
Hamvention Co-ordinator	Ian McDonald	VK3AXH	5341-3012
Net Controller	Clem Allan	VK3BVI	5348-7709
Newsletter Editor	Gordon Cornell	VK3FGC	5339-2427
Property Officer	Jeff Pigdon	VK3PAP	5332-7041
Publicity Officer	Doug Raper	VK3VBA	5332-3565
QSL Officer	Michael Lomas	N/C	5344-7464
Technical Officer	Ian McDonald	VK3AXH	5341-3012

Following discussion, at the September Committee Meeting, the following positions have also been created and appointments made, but are yet to be formally adopted through By Laws:

Contests Co-ordinator	Ernie Turner	VK3DET	5342-0383
Librarian	Craig Cook	VK3CMC	5342-2448

CLUB INFORMATION

REPEATERS

VK3RBA	(Voice)	146.750	Mt Buninyong
VK3RWA	(Voice)	147.100	Mt Ben Nevis
VK3RPC	(Packet)	144.750	Mt Warrenheip
VK3RBU	(Voice)	438.475	

BEACON

VK3RMB	438.475	Mt Buninyong
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IRLP Node 6310 using VK3RWA

CLUB e-mail vk3bml@barg.org.au.

CLUB NET VK3BML 3.610+/- QRM Thursday Nights at 8 pm E.S.T (Summer & Winter)

WIA Broadcast and Club Call Back. Sunday's 11.30 via VK3RWA (IRLP Node 6310)

NEWS ITEMS Send to Gordon VK3FGC (e-mail the club) mail to Box 1261 Mail Centre
BALLARAT 3354

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group 2004 – 2005 Calendar of Events

	<u>Construction Night</u>	<u>Committee Meeting</u>	<u>Dining Night</u>	<u>General Meeting</u>	<u>SPECIAL EVENTS</u>
<u>September</u>	Mon 13 th 7:30 pm (Computer / Radio Interface Part 2)	Wed 15 th 7:30 pm	Fri 17 th 6:30 pm (Ballarat Leagues Club)	Fri 24 th 7:30 pm (Gwen, VK3DYL, YL DXpeditions)	
<u>October</u>	Mon 11 th 7:30 pm	Wed 20 th 7:30 pm	Fri 15 th 6:30 pm (Queen's Head Hotel)	Fri 29 th 7:30 pm (Followed by Observatory visit)	Fri 29th Oct Astronomy @ Ballarat Observatory 9:30 pm
<u>November</u>	Mon 8 th 7:30 pm	Wed 17 th 8:00 pm	Fri 19 th 6:30 pm (Hamvention Ladies Thank You Dinner)	Fri 26 th 8:00 pm (Val D'angri, Eureka)	Sun 7th Nov BARG Hamvention Ballarat Showgrounds
<u>December</u>	Mon 13 th 7:30 pm	Wed 15 th 8:00 pm	Fri 17 th XMAS BBQ at BARG 7:30 pm	No General Meeting	27th Nov - 5th Dec VI3BML Eureka Special Event Station
<u>January 2005</u>	No Construction Night	Wed 19 th 8:00 pm	Fri 21 st 6:30 pm (Venue TBA)	Fri 28 th 8:00 pm	
<u>February</u>	Mon 14 th 7:30 pm	Wed 16 th 8:00 pm	Fri 18 th 6:30 pm (Venue TBA)	Fri 25 th 8:00 pm	
<u>March</u>	Mon 7 th 7:30 pm (14 th Labour Day)	Wed 16 th 8:00 pm	Fri 11 th 6:30 pm (2 nd Friday) (Venue TBA)	Fri 18 th 8:00 pm (25 th Good Friday)	19th – 20th Mar John Moyle Memorial Field Day Contest
<u>April</u>	Mon 11 th 7:30 pm	Wed 20 th 7:30 pm	Fri 15 th 6:30 pm (Venue TBA)	Fri 29 th 7:30 pm	
<u>May</u>	Mon 9 th 7:30 pm	Wed 18 th 7:30 pm	Fri 20 th 6:30 pm (Venue TBA)	Fri 27 th 7:30 pm	Sun 29th May George Fowler Memorial Auction 12:00 pm
<u>June</u>	Mon 6 th 7:30 pm (13 th Queen's B'day)	Wed 15 th 7:30 pm	Fri 17 th 6:30 pm (Venue TBA)	Fri 24 th 7:30 pm	
<u>July</u>	Mon 11 th 7:30 pm	Wed 20 th 7:30 pm	Fri 15 th 6:30 pm (Venue TBA)	Fri 29 th 7:30 pm	
<u>August</u>	Mon 8 th 7:30 pm	Wed 17 th 7:30 pm	Fri 19 th 6:30 pm (Venue TBA)	A.G.M. Fri 26th 7:30 pm	(near 15th Aug) Remembrance Day Contest

Weekly BARG HF Net: Thursday's 8:00pm on 3.610MHz +/- QRM
WIANews: Sunday's 11:30am on VK3RWA (147.100MHz)